



BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1950

R. C. M. PEARSON

M.D., M.R.C.P. (Ed.), D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

R. V. JACOB

M.S.I.A. (CERT. SAN. INST.)

Senior Sanitary Inspector

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Members of the Health Committee,
1949-50

Chairman:
Vice-Chairman:
His Worship the Mayor:
The Deputy Mayor:

Alderman L. C. Johnson
Councillor J. Davis
Councillor F. H. Vince
Alderman H. Coates

Alderman H. J. Bridger
Alderman Mrs. M. A. Ward
Alderman J. Wright
Councillor A. Abbott
Councillor Mrs. M. E. Bridger
Councillor W. Heath

Councillor Mrs. M. Higgins
Councillor R. N. E. Hinton
Councillor H. Horwood
Councillor J. Sutton Curtis
Councillor C. W. Tyrwhitt
Councillor L. D. White

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health, Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital
and Divisional Medical Officer for South-West Hertfordshire:-

R. C. M. Pearson, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.P.(Ed)., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:-

+ø R. V. Jacob, M.S.I.A.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector:-

ESxs=ø K. H. Marsden, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E.

District Sanitary Inspectors:-

xs=ø G. F. Willcox, M.S.I.A.

s=ø E. Ellerington, M.S.I.A.

Ss=ø J. L. Willoughby, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

s=ø T. B. Rosamond, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Inspector under Shops Act:-

A. Corke

Clerical Staff:-

± R. A. Smith
Miss M. Sherlock
Miss M. Johnson

± Part-time Officer.

+ Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

= Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.

ø Meat Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

s Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

x Diploma of Sanitary Inspectors' Examination in Sanitary Science and Administration.

S Smoke Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

E Associate Membership Examination, Institute of Sanitary Engineers.

BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Health Department,

Town Hall,

WATFORD.

July, 1951.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my eighth Annual Report and the twenty-ninth of its kind for the Borough. My Interim Report presented to you in February indicated the items of interest which had taken place during 1950 but more detailed investigation, which has been possible due to the late publication of the Registrar-General's Returns enables me to amplify a number of matters previously reported.

Although this report concerns itself mainly with the environmental Health Services I have endeavoured to relate to them wherever possible the personal Health Services which are the responsibility of the County Council. In reality if both services are to work satisfactorily and integrate with the General Practitioner and Hospital services, then there is no doubt that they should be administered as one service.

In previous reports I have stressed that one of the main responsibilities of the Medical Officer of Health is to find out all he possibly can about the health of the community at home and at work. Such a responsibility as this implies that there is a very wide field to cover and I therefore welcome the opportunity afforded by the Dean of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine who put forward the suggestion that his team of research workers should help me in carrying out this duty. It will take a number of years before perhaps anything very beneficial arises from this union but I have great hopes for its success. Also in this area the Medical Research Council are carrying out an investigation into the success of B.C.G. Vaccine given for the prevention of tuberculosis to school leavers. Here again it will take a number of years before the results are known.

It appears to me that it will do nothing but good if I review at this point the opportunity for voluntary service to the community, particularly in view of the generally accepted opinion three or so years ago that the State taking over so much responsibility for the various Health and Hospital Services there would be little opportunity for voluntary service. Looking back it is quite apparent that a great deal of the voluntary service given prior to 1948 was directed towards the collection of funds with the aid of which the Voluntary Hospitals, District Nurses and other services were administered; but really satisfying voluntary effort comes in rendering personal service to an individual or a group of people at a time when they most need it, thus improving their health, stimulating their happiness and ministering to their comfort. It is fully appreciated that a good deal of time is spent by persons giving their services on Committees responsible for Hospitals, District Nurses and such organisations as Save the Children Fund with its educational and international outlook, on the various County Committees

on Health and Children's Welfare, but there are in addition a number of opportunities open to those who still have time to render personal service. Although I cannot hope to make a complete list nor do I wish to put them in order, I must mention the faithful group of workers who give weekly assistance at Infant Welfare Clinics, not only on the clerical side but with distribution of food, etc, also the voluntary workers at the Family Planning Association Clinics and the highly trained Counsellors undertaking duties on behalf of the Marriage Guidance Council as well as those who have spent a great deal of time in the provision of a new Centre for the Blind thus giving them somewhere of their own and a place where their welfare can be looked after. It should be realised also that there are still opportunities in hospital "comforts" and library facilities, particularly for the aged and those who have to stay for quite long periods in hospital but have no known relatives and also in the provision of canteen services for out-patients. It may not be generally known that in addition to the voluntary service given by members of the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade on the County ambulances and at many local functions, these organisations join together in providing library services for tuberculosis patients, both in hospital and whilst under treatment at home. To the old people also the Women's Voluntary Service give a great deal of their time both in the organisation of clubs and in the provision of residential homes, but it must not be forgotten that others look after the interests of old people in many ways through the efforts of the Old People's Welfare Association. Finally and probably the most satisfying of all is the voluntary work amongst young children deprived of parental care as well as the help which can be given to the handicapped child.

It is my custom to review annually the statistical evidence of the health of the community and this year I am pleased to say that the Infant Mortality Rate, although not quite as low as last year, is on a very satisfactory level, the still-birth rate continues to fall and there have been no deaths from diphtheria or during child-birth. On the other hand, as I will indicate later, the position of the community in its protection against diphtheria and smallpox is not satisfactory but I hope to see an improvement in the near future.

The year 1950 will be remembered as the starting point of the campaign for an improvement in the cleanliness of all aspects of food handling. Naturally this is not the only influence which the Sanitary Inspector has on the community, because such matters as the difficulties of maintaining a standard of housing repairs, etc., must not be forgotten. When the Byelaws were approved it became evident that if they were to be understood fully a code of practice should be drawn up and this was done relating it with slight modifications to each of the various food trades. An opportunity was then given of discussing the code with the members of each trade or their representatives so that where minor alterations were necessary these could be agreed upon. These various codes now set a standard of practice which it is hoped will provide an objective towards which all concerned can aim.

Although not reported elsewhere mention should be made of the fact that the Colne Valley Sewerage Scheme is making steady progress and that part of it should be in operation during 1951.

I should like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the interest they have taken in the work of the Department during the year. Particular thanks are due to Dr. Ward who, although transferred to the County Council in 1948, has con-

tinued to deputise for me in my absence as well as render a number of smaller services to the Borough in which she has worked for many years. To the Senior Sanitary Inspector, his Deputy and the District Inspectors, who have spent so much time in pressing the desirability of all aspects of food hygiene and in their surveys of canteens, etc., as well as their routine duties at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses, my very sincere thanks are due. Finally, without the clerical staff many routine enquiries would go unanswered and the smooth running of the Department would be impossible.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant,

R. C. M. PEARSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION "A"

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	5,275
Estimated civilian population to mid-year 1950				74,380
Number of inhabited houses (estimated)			...	19,808
Rateable value at 1. 4. 50.	...		...	£644,604
Sum represented by a penny rate			...	£2,670

Number of Live Births -

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	501	500	1,001
Illegitimate	<u>24</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>37</u>
Total	<u>525</u>	<u>513</u>	<u>1,038</u>

Number of Still Births -

Legitimate	10	11	21
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>21</u>

Total number of Births

(Live and Still)	1,059
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Total number of Deaths	802
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Causes of Death:-

Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	16
Tuberculosis, other	...	2
Syphilitic disease	...	3
Diphtheria	...	-
Whooping cough	...	-
Meningococcal infections	...	1
Acute poliomyelitis	...	3
Measles	...	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases		2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	18
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus		26
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	16
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	6
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms		79
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	3
Diabetes	...	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system		106

Coronary disease, angina	...	86
Hypertension with heart disease		32
Other heart disease	...	102
Other circulatory disease	...	34
Influenza	...	2
Pneumonia	...	49
Bronchitis	...	46
Other diseases of respiratory system		6
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	12
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea		4
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	6
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	16
Congenital malformations	...	9
Other defined and ill-defined diseases		88
Motor vehicle accidents	...	6
All other accidents	...	10
Suicide	...	12
Homicide and operations of war		-
All causes	...	<u>802</u>

Infantile Deaths (under 1 year) -

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	16	7	23
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<u>17</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>24</u>

Birth Rate and Death Rate, 1950

	<u>Watford</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>	<u>London Admin-istrative County</u>	<u>126 County Boroughs and Great Towns</u>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) -				
Live Births	13.9	15.8	17.8	17.6
Still Births	0.28	0.37	0.36	0.45
Death Rate (per 1,000 population) -				
All causes	10.8	11.6	11.8	12.3
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Influenza	0.03	0.10	0.07	0.09
Typhoid etc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	<u>Watford</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>	<u>London Administrative County</u>	<u>126 County Boroughs and Great Towns</u>
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) (per 1,000 live births)	N.K.	1.9	1.0	2.2
Maternal Mortality Rate - (per 1,000 total births)	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.86
Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	0.12		
Other puerperal causes	0.00	0.74		
All puerperal causes	0.00	0.86		

Infant Mortality Rate -

All infants, per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	23.1
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births			...	22.1
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births			...	1.0

COMPARATIVE RATES

	<u>Watford 1949</u>	<u>Watford 1950</u>	<u>England and Wales, 1949</u>	<u>England and Wales, 1950</u>
Birth Rate (live births)	14.7	13.9	16.7	15.8
Death Rate	10.8	10.8	11.7	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate	18.5	23.1	32.0	29.8
Maternal Mortality Rate	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.86

Comments -

(1) Infectious Diseases.

For the second year in succession the country experienced an epidemic of poliomyelitis but Watford was more fortunate than in 1949, having only eight cases confirmed with 25 in the previous year. Fortunately seven of them made a good recovery, the eighth dying of a severe attack involving the vital centres.

No case of diphtheria occurred for the fourth year in succession but there was a small rise in meningococcal infections. During the latter part of the fourth quarter an early measles epidemic started and throughout the year whooping cough was rather more prevalent than usual.

(2) Violence.

Six persons lost their lives in street accidents in Watford (five last year). There were four fatal home accidents compared with five last year.

(3) Birth Rate.

A further fall from 14.7 to 13.9 took place. This figure has remained for a number of years considerably below the national figure which itself has been steadily falling.

It is intended that a record should be kept in order to see whether any changes take place in the incidence of premature births (i.e., those 5½ lbs. and under in weight). During 1950 58 births took place, classified as follows:-

2 lbs. and under	...	2
2 lbs. to 3 lbs.	...	4
3 lbs. to 4 lbs.	...	8
4 lbs. to 5 lbs.	...	14
5 lbs. to 5½ lbs.	...	30

Ten deaths took place amongst these children (males 8, females 2), three during the first 24 hours and the remaining 7 whilst under one week old. One baby of 1 lb. 9 ozs. died at home, the remaining nine in hospital. No premature babies died within the first month after discharge from hospital.

(4) Still Birth Rate.

The rate of 19.8 was a most satisfactory one and continues the steady fall now experienced for a number of years. It has been indicated in previous reports that still births must be taken with infant deaths during the neo-natal period and as these are falling as well the position is quite satisfactory.

In 1948 investigations into each case of still birth as far as it could be ascertained was recorded for the S.W. Herts Division. The figures set out below relate to 1949 and 1950:-

			<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Prematurity	...	...	-	-
Prematurity and Toxaemia	...	...	1	-
Prematurity and other causes			-	-
Toxaemia	...	...	11	9
Malformation	...	...	8	7
Birth injury	...	...	10	13
Placental Disease	...	...	4	3
Erythroblastosis	...	...	1	1
Maternal Disease	...	...	-	1
Abnormality of Cord	...	...	-	2
Cause unknown	...	...	6	8
			<u>41</u>	<u>44</u>

It is intended to keep these figures over a period of years but it would seem that the groups are going to remain almost identical from year to year. On the other hand it may be possible to point, after some years, to a definite improvement under one heading and to show the cause thereof.

(5) Deaths in infancy.

Although not quite as good as last year when the rate was 18.5 the figure of 23.1 is very satisfactory and well below the National figure of 29.8.

The following causes of death amongst infants under 1 year old during the last 5 years is interesting:-

			<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Prematurity	...	...	11	15	5	3	5
Malformation	...	...	4	5	2	1	5
Birth injuries	...	...	2	-	3	3	4
Collapse of lung	...	...	7	3	4	3	2
Respiratory diseases	...	...	2	8	1	3	2
Other diseases of infancy	...	...	3	6	4	5	3
Infectious diseases	...	...	-	-	4	2	3
Accidents	...	...	-	2	2	-	-
Not traced	...	...	-	2	3	-	-
			<u>31</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>24</u>

For some unexplained reason a rise has taken place in the malformation deaths but this may be due to more accurate classification as the number of "other diseases deaths" has fallen. It is to be regretted that infant deaths from infectious diseases still take place and particularly one from miliary tuberculosis. The other two being acute encephalitis and streptococcal meningitis.

Of the 24 infant deaths occurring in 1950, eight died within 24 hours, a further eight less than a week old and another one whilst still under one month old, leaving seven during the next eleven months.

The neo natal death rate was therefore 15.9 compared with 12.9 in 1949.

Due to a change in classification in the Registrar General's return it is no longer possible to indicate the local figures for deaths from gastro-enteritis amongst children under two although it is known that no such death occurred under one, nor was one recorded as such in the returns received from the Local Registrar of Births and Deaths.

(6) Death Rate.

The rate of 10.8 is the same as last year. No maternal deaths occurred.

(7) Sex of Infants.

The sex ratio of 1,020 boys to every 1,000 girl infants is a little lower than usual.

(8) Illegitimate Births, (per 1,000 total births).

It is pleasing to record the lowest rate for many years as will be seen from the following table:-

	<u>England and Wales</u>	<u>Watford</u>
1939	42	50
1944	68	72
1945	94	95
1946	67	66
1947	52	58
1948	51	52
1949	50	56
1950	N.K.	36

SECTION "B"

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

GENERAL

The hospital services are developing steadily in a number of directions, but have experienced cuts in the expenditure required for rapid development and the rising costs of the maintenance of patients in hospital have given the Hospital Management Committee some anxiety, thus necessitating very careful enquiry into all expenditure. From the mothers' point of view the rising costs of home confinement compared with admission to King Street Maternity Hospital is one which merits consideration and will no doubt have to be dealt with centrally in the near future.

Plans were put forward and much of the work carried out in upgrading part of Holywell Hospital for the admission of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, but difficulties may be experienced in staffing additional beds for this purpose. Likewise the staffing problem arose in a scheme for carrying out ear, nose and throat operations at Holywell Hospital in an endeavour to lower the waiting list, particularly of children needing removal of tonsils and adenoids. An alternative scheme put forward is now working reasonably satisfactorily.

It is becoming more and more evident that to administer the National Health Service Acts satisfactorily there must be channels of co-operation between the bodies concerned, not only on the policy making level but also between the various grades of staff. In an endeavour to overcome this difficulty meetings have been arranged monthly to which various social workers from hospitals, health services, children's services, education services and voluntary organisations are invited. To help the General Practitioners a pamphlet was drawn up indicating the work of the Nursing Services and this was circulated in the hope that close co-operation would be maintained to the benefit of the patients.

During the autumn an approach was made by the London School of Hygiene in order to link up University research with the field work of Local Sanitary and Local Health Authorities. With the co-operation of the County Council, the Borough Council and the Hospital Management Committee various research projects were commenced, but it is too early yet to indicate the degree of their success. On the other hand, such projects bring into touch with each other not only the teaching authorities and the local authorities but also all services within the National Health Service Act and thus help to maintain interest in each other's work, thus directly benefitting the patient again.

(a) Clinic Services.

At the end of the first quarter it was found possible to close the Scabies Clinic and to arrange for families requiring treatment which could not be arranged by their Family Doctor to be visited by a Nursing Attendant and treated either at home or at Holywell Hospital.

The Venereal Diseases clinic was moved to new premises at Shrodells Hospital on 1st January, 1950.

The Chest Clinic service was improved by an appointment system, additional contact clinics, evening clinics for those employed but still requiring treatment or investigation. This service is expanding rapidly, but will

in due course move to more satisfactory premises when new buildings are available.

Set out below are the Infant Welfare, Toddlers, Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinic figures for 1949 and 1950, those for the former year having been left out in the 1949 report:-

(i) Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Birth Notifications.

1949

1950

	Live Births		Still Births		Live Births		Still Births	
	Notified by Doctors	Notified by Midwives	Notified by Doctors	Notified by Midwives	Notified by Doctors	Notified by Midwives	Notified by Doctors	Notified by Midwives
King Street	3	1004	-	21	20	960	4	24
General Hospitals	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Private Nursing Homes	207	21	5	-	164	19	3	-
Domiciliary	40	336	1	3	50	308	1	2
Isolation Hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	252	1362	6	25	235	1287	9	26

Total Live Births 1949 ... 1614 Still Births 1949 ... 31
 " " " 1950 ... 1522 " " 1950 ... 35

(ii) Infant Welfare Clinic Attendances.

1949

Infants	Sessions	1st Att. under 1	Re-visits	1st Att. over 1	Re-visits	Total.	Consultations.	Food only
Central Clinic	101	372	6659	14	1863	8908	1871	667
Harebreaks	99	224	4388	6	1063	5681	1218	1216
Scouts Hall	52	132	2643	3	773	3551	730	283
Stanborough	52	130	2222	1	706	3059	606	243
Wiggenhall	51	98	1741	3	603	2445	774	205

1950.

Infants	Sess- ions	1st Att. under 1.	Re- visits	1st Att. over 1.	Re- visits	Total.	Consul- tat- ions.	Food only.
Central Clinic	102	324	6008	1	1539	7872	1678	755
Harebreaks	99	217	4237	6	1111	5571	1213	1145
Scouts Hall	51	129	2221	-	577	2927	717	293
Stanborough	52	144	1949	-	487	2580	604	384
Wiggenhall	51	88	1803	1	571	2463	639	370

(iii) Toddlers Clinic Attendances.

1949.

Toddlers	Number of Sessions	First Visits	Re- visits	Consul- tations	Weighings only	Total Attendances
Central	100	492	1058	1550	826	2376
Leavesden	52	130	699	829	132	961

1950.

Toddlers	Number of Sessions	First Visits	Re- visits	Consul- tations	Weighings only	Total Attendances
Central	94	396	943	1439	1013	2452
Leavesden	51	93	579	673	88	761

(iv) Day Nurseries.

During 1949 a system of very careful investigation into the relative merits of each child attending the Day Nurseries was instituted and by this means it was found possible to reduce the waiting list to very small figures whilst maintaining good average attendances. At all times it has been possible to admit emergency cases at short notice.

The foundations were laid in 1950 of the new Day Nursery in North Watford to take the place of Beulah Hall Day Nursery still accommodated in requisitioned property.

(v) Attendances at Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.

	Ante-Natal		Post-Natal		Consultations Ante-Natal & Post-Natal
	First Visits	Revisits	First Visits	Revisits	
Central Clinic					
1949	457	1993	264	402	1600
1950	305	1634	269	339	1252
Stanborough					
1949	81	393	1	-	446
1950	65	260	6	-	317

(vi) Health Visiting.

During 1949 20,091 visits were made but the figure fell during 1950 to 18,053.

(vii) Home Nursing.

Visits made during 1949 were 36,132 which rose to 45,514 in 1950, a proportion of the increase being due to the fact that nursing services are rendered outside the Borough boundaries.

(b) Laboratory Services.

Provision is available for investigation of all outbreaks of infectious disease and as will be seen from the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report help was willingly given when it was necessary to investigate small outbreaks of food poisoning.

(c) Health Education.

Steady progress was maintained throughout the year in a general way and particularly in the work undertaken following the confirmation of the Byelaws under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. It is a pleasure to record the interest taken by a number of influential firms in the catering, ice cream, butchery and grocery trades. Meetings were held to discuss the method by which the Corporation proposed to apply the Byelaws and at the request of the trade concerned certain amendments were made to the codes of practice.

(d) National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 47. One case was investigated but no action beyond the provision of suitable services under the National Health Service Act was required.

Section 50. Arrangements were made on four occasions (seven in 1949).

(e) Swimming Baths.

Regular routine samples of the water are taken for bacteriological examination and these have on each occasion proved to be very satisfactory. Throughout the year careful check was kept on the chlorine content of the water.

SECTIONS "C", "D", AND "E".

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA, ETC.

Water.

Mr. L. C. Kimberlin, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., Water Engineer and Manager, has kindly supplied the following information:-

(i) The supply has been satisfactory, both in quantity and quality, throughout the year 1950, and approximately half of the total quantity of water supplied to the Borough was softened. No progress has been made in obtaining Government sanction to install softening plant at The Grove Pumping Station, which would enable the whole supply to be softened.

(ii) Bacteriological examinations of the supply were made regularly, as follows:-

1. Watford Fields Supply:

Raw Water.	Monthly
Treated Water.	Weekly
High Level Reservoir)	Monthly, staggered
Low Level Reservoir)	fortnightly.

Chlorine residual tests of the water leaving the Pumping Station were taken hourly, and the supplies from the High Level and Low Level Reservoirs were similarly tested, at 4-hourly intervals.

2. The Grove Supply.

Raw Water.	Fortnightly
Treated Water.)	Monthly, staggered
Reservoir.)	fortnightly.

Chlorine residual tests of the water leaving the Pumping Station were taken at hourly intervals.

With the exception of a slight abnormality in the Watford Fields supply caused by bacteria of a non-faecal type, which was eliminated by the super-chlorination treatment, all the analyses showed the supply to be of a high standard of purity.

Bacterial analyses of samples taken quarterly from the area of the Borough served by the Colne Valley Water Company have also proved satisfactory.

Chemical analyses of the raw water at Watford Fields and The Grove have shown that the water from both these sources is hard in character but of the highest standard of organic purity.

(iii) There is no plumbo solvency.

(iv) Progress has been made in the work of removing the remaining ball hydrants, which in certain circumstances are a potential source of pollution of the water supply.

(v) The 12" outlet main in Paddock Road Reservoir has been extended to

induce better circulation and thus facilitate the maintenance of a high bacterial quality of the water from that reservoir.

(vi) A survey of water supplies to temporary dwellings, and also to the few permanent dwellings which have no main supply, revealed the following position:-

(a) Temporary dwellings at:-

Langley Road Camp.	9 families. Each family has a separate tap. (Population 30).
108, Leavesden High Road.	Caravan dwellers have a standpipe in yard. (Population 4).
Rear of 82, Leavesden High Road.	1 caravan dweller uses a standpipe supply.
275, Sheepcote Lane.	6 persons occupying 2 caravans share one standpipe.

(b) Permanent dwellings at:-

Puxley House, North Orbital Road.	Premises supplied by outside standpipe only. Plumbing installed in the house, but not connected to the service pipe. (Population 3).
Leavesden High Road. (112 - 118 (even nos.))	4 families share 1 standpipe supply. (Population 18).
Leavesden High Road. (120 - 124B (5 houses))	5 families share 1 standpipe supply. (Population 9).
Munden Drive Cottage.	1 family uses standpipe supply. (Population 3).
Forge Cottages, Leavesden. Nos. 4, 5 and 6.	3 families use 3 standpipe supplies. (Population 7).
Ganders Ash, Leavesden. Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7.	3 families share 1 standpipe supply. (No. 7 is unoccupied). (Population 6).

Sanitary Inspection.

The following table is a record of the visits and inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1950.

Houses -

Public Health Act	...	...	266
Housing Act	...	...	234
Overcrowding	...	...	105

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied.

Houses -

Roofs repaired or renewed	...	100
Walls repointed, rendered or repaired		59
Dangerous walls rebuilt	...	4
Wallplaster repaired	...	107
Floors repaired or renewed	...	42
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	141
Windows repaired or renewed	...	143
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	...	45
Cooking ranges repaired or renewed		3
Coppers provided or repaired	...	6
Sinks provided or renewed	...	8
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	18
Repairs to water supplies	...	8
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed		69
Eaves guttering repaired or renewed		75
Stairs repaired or renewed	...	1
Doors repaired or renewed	...	38
Chimneys and stacks repaired or abolished		38
Yards, etc., paved or repaired	...	6
Damp-proof courses provided	...	24
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	9
Overcrowding abated	...	1
Additional ventilation provided	...	1
Sub-floor ventilation improved	...	2

Drainage -

Drains or sewers cleared of obstructions		39
Drains or sewers repaired or reconstructed		40
Inspection chambers provided		5
Soil pipes, vent shafts, etc. repaired or renewed		8

Water Closets -

Additional provided	...	4
Compartments repaired	...	42
Compartments cleansed	...	6
Pedestals renewed	...	33
Cisterns repaired or renewed	...	42
Flushpipes repaired or renewed	...	13

Miscellaneous -

Dustbins provided	...	222
Offensive accumulations removed	...	3
Animals - nuisances abated	...	4
Verminous rooms disinfested	...	9
Industrial nuisances abated	...	1
Stagnant water removed	...	1

1,420

Administration - Notices.

	Served	Complied with	Outstanding at 31st December, 1950
Public Health Act, 1936:			
Informal	358	368	85
Statutory	160	146	20
Housing Act, 1936:			
Informal	131	129	77
Statutory	12	17	10
Factories Act, 1937:			
Informal	19	16	29
Food & Drugs Act, 1938.	25	19	30
	705	695	251

Housing.

The ever increasing cost of repairs allied with the comparatively low controlled rents of cottage properties makes it more and more difficult to maintain these properties in good repair. The surmisal which I made in my last Annual Report that the Housing Act, 1949, would not help to solve this problem has been borne out in practice. The sanitary inspectors, of necessity, have continued to restrict their requirements to the minimum essential repairs of public health importance.

During the year 131 informal notices under the Housing Act were served requiring the execution of repairs, and in only 12 cases was it necessary for the Council to serve statutory notices. Six of these notices were enforced by the Council carrying out the necessary repairs in default of the owners.

The following houses were represented to the Council as being unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at a reasonable cost:-

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 5 & 7 Devon Road (2 flats) | - Undertaking given by the owner to demolish and rebuild. |
| 247a Gammons Lane | - Demolished by the Council in July, 1950. |
| 22 Wiggenhall Road | - To be purchased and repaired by the Council. |
| 10 Smith Street | - House closed in September, 1950 under the "Dangerous Structure" provisions of the Public Health Act. |

New Houses.

The Borough Engineer has kindly supplied the undermentioned information regarding new houses erected during 1950.

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------------|---|------|
| (a) | By the Local Authority | - | 318. |
| (b) | By private individuals | - | 73. |

The Borough Treasurer has kindly supplied the following information:-

1.	Number of Council houses occupied on 31st December, 1950	...	...	2,876
2.	Number of requisitioned premises occupied on 31st December, 1950	...	...	100
3.	Number of families housed in requisitioned premises on 31st December, 1950	...	...	226

Dustbins.

Early in the year an owner successfully appealed against two statutory notices requiring the provision of dustbins. Thereupon the Council reviewed the whole question of the renewal of defective dustbins and decided that certain facts of each case should be reported to the Public Health Committee who would decide whether the notice should be served upon the owner or the occupier of the premises concerned. Since the adoption of this policy 120 statutory notices have been served, 20 of which have been enforced by the supply of dustbins in default.

Smoke Abatement.

Excessive smoke emission from eight boiler chimneys has been recorded during the year and on each occasion investigations have been made into the boiler-house practice, maintenance of the plant, fuel supply, etc., with a view to abating the nuisance. Wherever necessary the sanitary inspectors have advised the factory managers of the remedial action to be taken. In most cases the cause of smoke emission has been the use of unsuitable fuel or carelessness on the part of stokers. Fuel economy and smoke abatement are intimately associated and close co-operation has been maintained with the Technical Advisers of the Ministry of Fuel and Power. Unfortunately there has been little improvement in the fuel supply to factories and the boilers must be fired with the fuel that is available. Two courses of lectures on "Boiler-House Practice", for the boiler-house staffs in Watford and district, have been arranged by the Ministry of Fuel and Power and the Divisional Education Officer. One of these courses is being conducted by the sanitary inspectorate.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

During 1950 the following meat and other foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

<u>HOME KILLED MEAT AND OFFAL.</u>				lbs.
Beef (including 112 carcasses)	...	...	...	85,163
Pork (including 31 carcasses)	...	...	...	7,369
Veal (including 48 carcasses)	...	...	...	2,220
Mutton (including 8 carcasses)	...	...	...	705
<u>Offal from Bovines -</u>				
1,020 heads	...	...	...	30,600
956 tongues	...	...	...	5,259
2,464 sets lungs	...	...	...	24,640
292 hearts	...	...	...	1,437
1,902 livers and 1,299 part livers	...	...	...	37,504
257 spleens	...	...	...	505
233 skirts	...	...	...	455
Carried forward				195,857

				lbs.
	Brought forward			195,857
177	tripes and 136 manifolds	...		9,710
779	udders	...		14,214
260	sets intestines	...		8,127
115	tails	...		231
391	mesenteries and other fat	...		6,803
132	sets of feet	...		3,201
	Blood	...		4,320
	Other organs	...		63
	<u>Offal from Pigs -</u>			
123	plucks	...		1,040
72	livers	...		326
256	sets lungs	...		1,022
115	heads and tongues	...		2,300
162	other organs	...		694
	<u>Offal from Sheep and Lambs -</u>			
100	plucks	...		377
1,019	livers	...		2,321
378	sets lungs	...		734
31	other organs	...		2,235
	<u>Offal from Calves -</u>			
46	heads	...		306
58	plucks	...		284
107	other organs	...		545
<u>IMPORTED MEAT</u>				
	Beef	...		774
	Mutton	...		60
<u>OTHER FOODS</u>				
	Bacon	...		1,312
	Wet fish	...		1,279
	Cured fish	...		378
	Smoked fish	...		124
65	cans Ham	...		1,018
178	cans corned meat	...		607
1,086	cans Fruit	...		3,293
171	cans Fruit and Tomato Juices	...		199
1,543	cans Milk	...		1,538
761	cans various meats	...		1,008
1,924	cans Vegetables	...		2,671
361	cans Fish	...		271
190	cans Soup	...		177
370	cans Jam and marmalade	...		537
184	cans meat and fish paste	...		19
61	cans Cereals	...		54
384	cans Sardines	...		96
123	cans Tomatoes	...		212
	Sausage and sausage meat	...		170
	Cheese	...		50
	Poultry	...		11
	Sweets and chocolates	...		104
93	jars Pickles and sauces	...		64
2,999	cans fruit pudding	...		2,992
	Butter and other fats	...		19
	Cereals and Flour	...		397
	Cooked meats	...		235
	Cakes	...		21
	Ice Cream	...		8
2,321	shell eggs and dried eggs	...		297
	Carried forward			274,685

	Brought fwd.	lbs, 274,685
Dried fruit	...	448
Milk powder	...	298
580 cans Milk and fruit puddings		580
36 jars Salad cream	...	64
61 Rabbits	...	223
36 bottles Vinegar	...	56
992 cans Homogenised baby food		279
16 cans Mincemeat	...	112
Miscellaneous	...	56
	Total	<u>276,801</u>

Total weight of meat and other foods condemned during the year 1950 - 123 tons, 11 cwts., 1 qtr., 1 st., 7 lbs., an increase of 19% over 1949.

Of the above unsound foods 92% comprised diseased meat and offal condemned at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses within the Borough.

The number of animals killed in the two Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses, Watford, during 1950 was 31,297 compared with 26,089 in 1949 (an increase of 20%) and 24,694 in 1948. The following table indicates the extent of tuberculosis and other diseases found on post-mortem examination of the animals slaughtered during the year 1950:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	5,673	1,981	5,074	16,592	1,977
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	5	28	8	24
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2,412	783	18	1,203	259
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis.	42.5	39.8	0.9	7.3	14.3
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	35	70	20	-	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	563	653	3	-	105
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	10.5	36.5	0.4	-	5.5

For comparison purposes, the percentages of the animals found to be diseased during the post-war years are set out in the following table.

		Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis:						
1946	...	29.4	25.9	0.5	7.1	10.9
1947	...	38.6	35.8	0.8	8.7	16.8
1948	...	39.3	37.0	0.9	5.2	27.9
1949	...	42.4	37.5	0.8	4.5	20.6
1950	...	42.5	39.8	0.9	7.3	14.3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis						
1946	...	13.0	45.5	0.1	-	4.6
1947	...	12.3	48.7	0.07	-	3.1
1948	...	12.4	44.5	0.5	-	7.9
1949	...	10.0	38.6	0.2	-	5.1
1950	...	10.5	36.5	0.4	-	5.5

Congenital Tuberculosis.

During the year 20 calves were found to be infected with tuberculosis of congenital origin. Six of these calves could not be identified; the remaining 14 were notified to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Animal Health Division, whose investigations on the farms concerned resulted in the detection of eight tuberculous cows which were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

Cysticercus Bovis.

460 cases of *Cysticercus bovis* were discovered in the 7,654 cattle slaughtered in Watford during 1950. This gives an incidence rate of 6.0% compared with 4.2% for the year 1949. Careful records have been compiled of the origin of every case. 45 or 10% of the total cases were found in animals which were imported direct from Ireland and the remaining 415 cases were sent into the Collecting Centres by 260 different farmers in the Southern Counties of England. The cysts in 143 cases (31.1%) were viable indicating that the infections were of recent origin; since the infecting source was human tapeworm carriers, it appears that there is a need for further research into the epidemiology of this disease.

Ice Cream.

Purity.

Fourteen premises within the Borough are registered for the manufacture of ice cream, but seven of these premises do not comply with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations and they have not been used for the manufacture of ice cream during the year. The remaining seven manufacturers have co-operated admirably with the sanitary inspectors to maintain a very high standard of hygiene.

Seventy-five samples of ice cream from ten manufacturers were submitted for bacteriological examination; 92% of these were satisfactory compared with 70% during 1949 and 63% during 1948.

The hygienic aspects of the sale of ice cream have also received careful attention. Pre-wrapped ice cream is now being sold from many varied premises including provision merchants, greengrocers', butchers' shops and a public house. Altogether one hundred premises within the Borough are registered for the sale of ice cream.

Composition.

Fourteen samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical examination; the reports are summarised in the following table.

Sample Number	Fat Content	Solids excluding fat.	Total Solids
1.	10.6%	23.3%	33.9%
2.	11.0%	22.6%	33.6%
3.	12.2%	24.0%	36.2%
4.	8.7%	25.9%	34.6%
5.	11.3%	23.2%	34.5%
6.	11.9%	23.4%	35.3%
7.	10.3%	24.7%	35.0%
8.	11.2%	22.6%	33.8%
9.	8.0%	27.5%	35.5%
10.	7.2%	31.8%	39.0%
11.	9.7%	25.8%	35.5%
12.	11.4%	25.6%	37.0%
13.	9.9%	25.1%	35.0%
14.	9.3%	31.0%	40.3%

These results show that the quality of ice cream is steadily improving and that the present day product is a safe, nutritive foodstuff.

Food Hygiene.

The Council's Byelaws for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in the handling of food came into operation on the 23rd April, 1950. These Byelaws are phrased comprehensively, and the Council decided that each particular food trader could best be made aware of his obligations under the legislation by the formulation of specific Codes of Hygiene for the different food trades. Before a Code of Hygiene was approved by the Council the food traders concerned were invited to submit their observations on the Code and interpretation of the Byelaws at a specially convened private meeting. During the year Codes of Hygiene have been approved for the Catering, Butchery and Prepared Meats and the Grocery trades. There can be no doubt that the majority of food traders are anxious to co-operate with the Council to raise the standard of food hygiene and they welcomed the Codes of Hygiene as a valuable means to this end.

Altogether 400 copies of the Byelaws have been distributed within the Borough.

The sanitary inspectors have continued their lectures to food handlers and full use has been made of the Ministry of Information film "Another Case of Food Poisoning".

The following improvements have been effected as a result of periodic inspection of the various food premises:-

Defects remedied	Registered rooms	Other rooms
Food rooms reconstructed	2	-
Walls and ceilings repaired or renewed ...	-	8
Floors repaired or renewed	1	5
Doors and windows repaired or renewed ...	2	-
Sanitary conveniences disconnected from food rooms	-	1
Ventilation improved	1	5
Lighting improved	1	-
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	5	6
Apparatus, utensils, etc. cleansed, repaired or renewed	2	8
New refuse accommodation provided, sinks repaired or renewed	1	3
Wash-basins repaired or renewed	1	1
Additional wash-basins provided	1	-
Constant hot water provided	3	3
Soap and towels provided	1	1
	21	41

Slaughterhouse Hygiene.

The necessity for an improved standard of hygiene in our slaughterhouses is widely recognised. The slaughtering of livestock inevitably is accompanied by the production of foul refuse which is a serious source of contamination of the meat.

With the consent of the Ministry of Food research into this aspect of meat hygiene has been undertaken during the year in the Watford Slaughterhouse. Working in close co-operation with the Laboratory Staff of the Milton-Deosan organisation it has been possible to assess the extent of contamination of the meat, and to devise a system of overcoming it. It is hoped that the findings will, in due course, influence the Ministry of Food to adopt more hygienic methods in our slaughterhouses.

The provision of a municipal abattoir in Watford has again engaged the attention of the Council. An approach has been made to the Minister of Food for guidance on the future policy of the Ministry but the result was not very helpful.

Food Poisoning.

Three outbreaks of food poisoning, involving thirteen persons were investigated during 1950. Exhaustive enquiries failed to reveal the responsible infected foodstuffs, but in one case a carrier of the infective organism was detected and brought to early medical treatment. The Public Health Laboratory Service has been of great assistance during these investigations.

A summary of the outbreaks is set out in the following table:

Total Number of Out-breaks.	Number of Cases.	Number of Deaths.	Organisms responsible with number of out-breaks of each.	Foods suspected.	Remarks.
3	4 plus 9 suspected	Nil	Salmonella typhimurium - 2 Sonne Dysentery - 1	Nil	One of the Salmonella infections was contracted outside the Borough.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Registrations in respect of four dairies and twenty-three distributors of milk have been authorised by the Council under the above Regulations.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The following licences have been granted during the year for the processing or sale of heat-treated milks:-

(a) Pasteurised.

(i) Dealers Licence to pasteurise milk	...	2
(ii) Dealers Licence to sell pasteurised milk	...	14
(iii) Supplementary Licence to sell pasteurised milk		3

(b) Sterilised.

(i) Dealers Licence to sterilise milk	...	1
(ii) Dealers Licence to sell sterilised milk	...	19
(iii) Supplementary Licence to sell sterilised milk		1

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The following licences have been granted during the year:-

(i) Dealers Licence for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	11
(ii) Supplementary Licence for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	1

Close supervision has been maintained on the purity of milk sold within the Borough and the following samples have been submitted to the Bacteriologist for examination:-

Sterilised Milk	...	23
Tuberculin Tested Milk		6
Pasteurised Milk	...	34

Two samples of pasteurised milk, which were processed outside the Borough, were found to be unsatisfactory, and appropriate action was taken. The remaining samples fully complied with the stipulated tests.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The Report of the Public Analyst on samples submitted for examination during the year 1950 is as follows:-

"The number of samples examined under the Food and Drugs Act during the period under review amounted to 117, of which 48 were Formal and 69 Informal.

Of the Formal samples, 41 consisted of Milk and the following table shows their average composition as compared with those examined during the previous year -

		<u>Fat</u>	<u>Solids, not Fat</u>
1949	...	3.56%	8.78%
1950	...	3.47%	8.80%

It will be seen that the average Fat content for the year under review is a little lower than for 1949, but the percentage of Solids, non Fat constituents has remained practically unchanged.

The average figures are, however, well above the Statutory limits and may be regarded as satisfactory.

The Milks, generally, were of good quality and in only one instance did a sample fail to comply with the Milk Regulations in respect of its composition.

This particular Milk had a Fat content of only 2.56%, showing a deficiency of 0.44%, as compared with the Statutory minimum limit of 3.00%.

An 'Appeal to Cow' sample was taken and this gave a Fat content of 3.10%.

The Farmer in question was warned and no legal proceedings were instituted.

All the Milk samples examined during the year conformed with the requirements of the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, in respect of their freedom from preservatives.

Your Chief Inspector, Mr. R. V. Jacob, has also submitted to me for examination during the year a selection of different varieties of Foods, Drugs, etc., the chief of which I will refer to under the following headings.

Foods - Apricot, Strawberry and Raspberry Jam, Beef Sausages, Beef Sausage Meat, Pork Sausages, Meat Paste, Herring in Tomato, Fish Paste, Fish Cakes, Self Raising Flour, Sponge Cake Mixture, Baking Powder, Custard Powder, Lemon Curd, Jelly Crystals, Almond and Vanilla Essence, Coffee Essence, Cream Filled Buns, Off Ration Sweets, Lemon Squash, etc.

Condiments - Tomato Sauce, Loose Malt Vinegar, Salad Cream, Curry Powder, Sweet Pickles, Mustard, White Pepper, Mixed Spice, Olive Oil, Ground Ginger, Pepper Flavoured Compound, etc.

Drugs - Glycerine, Lemon and Honey Cough Mixture, Seidlitz Powder, Glauber Salts, Borax, Tartaric Acid, etc.

The great majority of the food products and condiments, on examination,

were found to be of good quality and in a sound, edible condition.

The ten samples of Sausages and Sausage Meat examined complied with the Statutory Rule and Order, in respect of their Meat Content.

All the samples of Drugs, on analysis, were found to conform with the requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia in respect of their strength and general composition.

I was again requested this year to examine and report on the general quality of the Ice Cream sold in the Watford district.

The analysis of fourteen samples was carried out (the results are shown on page 24 of the Report).

There has been a distinct improvement in the quality of the Ice Cream examined this year. The majority of the products showed a Fat content of 9 to 10%, whereas in many samples examined in 1949, the Fat content was as low as 4 to 5%.

Your Chief Inspector has also submitted to me during the year under review a number of special samples, the majority of which were connected with complaints in respect of their condition, etc., and I will now refer to these

Danish Brislings in Tomato.

Tins of these Brislings were suspected of having become blown and I accordingly submitted them to a bacteriological examination, but failed to detect the presence of any pathogenic organisms associated with food poisoning.

On the other hand, when the tins were first opened, there was definite evidence of a little pressure, due to internal gas development. It seemed therefore, very probable that some slight bacterial activity had taken place since the fish were canned, but that the organisms had died out during storage.

I informed Mr. Jacob that, although these Brislings appeared to be sound, it might be advisable not to allow them to be sold for human consumption.

Worthington Indian Pale Ale.

This sample was submitted to me following the complaint that its consumption had been the cause of illness.

A careful examination, however, failed to reveal the presence of any poisonous substances and it was, moreover, sound and normal in composition.

I was, therefore, satisfied that the consumption of this beer could not have been responsible for the illness complained of by the purchaser.

Bread Roll.

This Bread Roll was sent to me following a complaint that it was contaminated with animal excreta.

A microscopical examination revealed the presence of some foreign substance, having the general structure of rat hairs.

This bread had, no doubt, been contaminateded with rat excreta and I advised your Chief Inspector accordingly.

Bread Roll.

I also received another specimen of Bread Roll, arising from a complaint that it contained fragments of metal. When the Bread was examined a number of small pieces of white metal were found in the centre. On analysis these were proved to consist of Aluminium.

These pieces of Aluminium, moreover, were sharp-edged and would most certainly cause considerable injury to anyone consuming this Bread.

I was subsequently informed that when this matter was investigated at the Bakery, it was found that the pieces of Aluminium had gained access to the dough from the Mixing Machine, which was made of that metal.

Currants.

Mr. Jacob informed me that these Currants had been sent to him as they appeared to be coated with a greyish-white substance, and the Retailer wished to know whether it was quite safe to sell them.

This greyish-white substance was found to consist entirely of sugar which had crystallised out on the Currants, and I was unable to find anything deleterious or harmful.

The Retailer was advised accordingly that the Currants were quite fit for consumption.

Swedish Brislings.

Two cans of these Brislings were submitted to me with the complaint that the Fish had an objectionable metallic taste.

The Fish were removed from the tins and their general outward appearance was quite satisfactory.

An inspection of the inside of the containers, however, showed that the tinned surfaces had been acted upon by the Fish, exposing the iron base underneath. The Fish were, therefore, examined for the presence of lead, tin and iron.

The amount of lead was very small and that of tin was not excessive. On the other hand, the Fish were found to contain an appreciable amount of iron, and this had, no doubt, imparted to them the metallic taste complained of. I, therefore, reported these findings to your Chief Inspector.

White Powder.

This sample of Powder was sent to me with the statement that it had been taken from the floor of a fish wagon at Watford Station, as the result of a complaint from a local fishmonger.

The analysis of the powder showed that it consisted entirely of aluminium clay.

This substance is quite insoluble in water and would not be absorbed

by the fish, so as to render it dangerous for consumption.

I recommended, however, that any fish in the hands of local salesmen that were covered with this powder, should be submitted to a thorough washing before being sold to the Public.

This, I think, completes my summary relating to the various samples taken in the Borough of Watford during the past year; and, in submitting my Report, I would like, at the same time, to acknowledge the valuable help and assistance that I have received from your Chief Inspector, Mr. R. V. Jacob, your Deputy Chief Inspector, Mr. K. H. Marsden, and their colleagues in the Public Health Office at Watford.

(Signed) C. W. McHugo,

Public Analyst for the
Borough of Watford."

Shops Act, 1950.

The Shops Acts 1912 - 1938 were consolidated into this new Act which came into operation on the 1st October, 1950. The only amendments are in respect of the General Closing Hours.

Routine visits to shops and inspection of records	...	900
Visits to shops regarding early closing day	...	140
Evening visits to shops and observations after legal closing hours	...	4
Visits to shops in respect of Sunday Trading	...	83
Number of infringements investigated and appropriate action taken to remedy matters complained of	...	101
New shops added to records	...	27
Shops closed down	...	18

Eradication of Insect Pests.

Number of premises dealt with for bugs by the Department:		
Council houses	...	-
Other houses	...	13
Number of Council houses dealt with for bugs by the Housing Department		5
Number of premises dealt with for other insect pests by the Health Department		11
Total		29

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

Part 1 - Health Provisions.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Insp- ections	Written Notices	
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	61	41	1	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	329	169	13	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	6	5	-	-
	396	215	14	-

Cases in which defects were found.

	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (Sec.1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (Sec.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperatures (Sec. 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (Sec.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective draining of floors (Sec.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	21	5	-	1	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	1	2	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-	-
	22	7	2	1	-

Part 11 - Safety, Section 34 - Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

Seventeen factories were surveyed during the year in connection with the requirements of the above-mentioned Section of the Factories Act, 1937, by the Chief Sanitary Inspector acting as the Corporation's Authorised Officer. This has necessitated much time being spent due to proposed alterations, or in some cases, internal reconstruction, having been carried out without thought to the Section in question.

With the co-operation of the Borough Engineer proposed plans received by him which may affect the provisions of this Act have been submitted to this Department for observations. This procedure has proved most helpful and beneficial and has justified the time spent on such examination.

Part VIII - Outwork. (Sections 110 and 111).

<u>Nature of Work.</u>	<u>Number of out-workers as required by Sec.110(1)(c).</u>
Artificial flowers - making, etc. ...	2
Baker's sundries - making, etc. ...	33
Brushmaking ...	19
Carpet making ...	1
Cardboard making for fireworks ...	2
Leather and plastic work ...	20
Wearing apparel making ...	43
	<u>120</u>

There has been a considerable increase in the number of outworkers notified during the year. It is considered that this increase in notifications is largely the result of a circular letter which was sent to the managers of all factories within the Borough drawing attention to their statutory obligations under Part VIII of the Act.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

This Act came into operation on the 31st March, 1950. Central administration was transferred from the Minister of Food to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the primary obligation of maintaining an area free from rodent infestation was placed upon local authorities instead of individual occupiers. The Council has continued its policy of providing a free service for domestic dwellings and the following table shows the work carried out by the two rodent operatives during 1950:-

Number of complaints received ...	281
Number of premises inspected ...	672
Number of infestations treated ...	267
Estimated kill (including 2,152 mice) ...	5,422
Number of premises rat-proofed ...	11

In co-operation with the Borough Engineer the public sewers have been subjected to two rat destruction campaigns in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

SECTION "F".

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

From the 1st January, 1950, notification of Poliomyelitis was divided into Paralytic and Non-paralytic cases and notifications of Acute Encephalitis into Infective and Post-infectious. Cerebrospinal Meningitis has been included under Meningococcal Infection.

The total number of notifications received during the year was 667 compared with 981 during 1949. After correction the total was reduced to 662.

	<u>Notifications</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Scarlet Fever	91	89
Diphtheria	-	-
Poliomyelitis - paralytic	10	8
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	14	14
Meningococcal Infections	5	3
Pneumonia	15	15
Erysipelas	11	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	22	22
Infective Hepatitis and Cat. J.	38	39
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	1	1
Whooping Cough	267	267
Measles	187	187
Paratyphoid Fever	1	1
Food Poisoning	2	2
Acute Encephalitis (Post Infectious)	2	2
Dysentery	1	1
	<u>667</u>	<u>662</u>

Scarlet Fever

Quite a considerable increase took place in the number of Scarlet Fever notifications but all of them were mild. Small epidemics occurred in two primary schools, but investigations failed to reveal any particular source of infection. The highest instance occurred in the fourth quarter (41) the remaining cases being equally distributed throughout the other three quarters.

Diphtheria.

For the fourth year in succession no case of diphtheria occurred.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

It is to be regretted that the figures set out below show a very marked fall in the number of children immunised against diphtheria, both during infancy and whilst at school. To some extent this was due to the opinion expressed by some authorities that children recently immunised were liable to be victims of poliomyelitis but when compared with the figures for immunisation against whooping cough it would appear that the real reason for the unsatisfactory position is the fact that diphtheria is almost a forgotten disease amongst young mothers. It cannot be too often stressed that in some parts of the country diphtheria is still prevalent and carries with it quite a high death rate.

Quarterly Immunisation figures, 1950.

	0 - 5	5 and over	Total	Reinforcing
First Quarter	154	48	202	592
Second Quarter	161	50	211	321
Third Quarter	112	15	127	25
Fourth Quarter	96	15	111	239
Total	523	128	651	1,177

323 children were Schick Tested and only 6 found to be still susceptible.

Poliomyelitis.

Once again the poliomyelitis epidemic was not experienced until more than half-way through the third quarter of the year and then cases came at roughly fortnightly intervals without any apparent connection between them. It was observed, however, that five of the eight cases occurred in North Watford in the Garston and Leavesden areas. The one fatal case was due to bulbar paralysis.

Although four of the cases were under five years of age no day nursery or nursery school children were involved either as cases or contacts. Furthermore no school children were involved.

Age Groupings (deaths in brackets).

<u>0 - 1</u>	<u>1 - 2</u>	<u>3 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 10</u>	<u>11 - 15</u>	<u>16 - 25</u>	<u>26 - 35</u>	<u>36 - 45</u>	<u>over 45.</u>
-	2	- 1 1	-	-	-	3 (1)	1	-

All the cases were admitted to Holywell Hospital and then transferred for further orthopaedic treatment either as in-patients at Starmore Hospital or out-patients at the Grosvenor Road Physiotherapy Clinic.

A survey at the end of the year revealed that of the seven surviving cases two had made a complete recovery, two a partial recovery, i.e., were receiving out-patient treatment, leaving three in hospital.

Throughout the period during which cases of poliomyelitis occurred close contact was maintained with the local press, a fact which helped materially in keeping the public informed of the exact position from week to week, thus helping to prevent alarm.

Certain methods are being developed which may be helpful in tracing the source of both abortive and paralytic cases, but this will not alone prevent spread of the disease. It must therefore be emphasised that sound common sense in keeping young children away from crowded meeting places and avoiding unnecessary travelling during epidemic times does help, but above all sensible care in the early stages, before a diagnosis can be made with certainty, prevents a number of abortive cases reaching the paralytic stage.

Although only one death took place in the Borough it was ascertained that two Watford children developed the disease on holiday and died as a result thereof.

Whooping Cough.

The number of notifications of whooping cough rose again to about the usual level of 200 or so, the disease being most prevalent during the spring and summer.

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Unlike diphtheria immunisation the figures recorded below are slightly higher than those for 1949:-

1st Visits	...	467
Revisits	...	1405

Total injections given	...	1872
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Research into the most efficient antigen continues but there is every indication in recently published results that whilst the disease is not necessarily completely prevented by immunisation, it is at least reduced in severity with less risk of complications. In one Watford family, all of them immunised in infancy, the school child aged 5½ developed a definite attack, a toddler aged 3½ had a slight attack with no whoop, and the baby aged 1½, immunised six months previously, had no attack. Other similar families can probably be recorded.

Whilst whooping cough itself is a very distressing disease, particularly to the mother with young children, it is not always appreciated that quite a lot of damage can be done to lung tissue in small children by a severe attack, recovery being often slow to take place.

Meningococcal Infection. (Previously known as Cerebrospinal Meningitis).

Three confirmed cases occurred.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.

One case of paratyphoid fever was notified; this was a secondary case from a small outbreak occurring in an adjacent district.

Infective Hepatitis.

A very marked rise in the number of notifications took place during the year and the significant point about this small outbreak is that it was largely concentrated in the Harebreaks and Knutsford areas, 22 of the 38 cases falling into this group, the others being scattered throughout the area. In a number of instances the family contacts developed the disease.

Smallpox.

Seven smallpox contacts, none of them very intimate and all of them vaccinated were kept under close supervision. All remained well.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

A steady level of vaccination, about 20 - 25% of young infants has been maintained by General Practitioners in the district, but as a demand was forthcoming for this service to be made available at the clinics at which immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is carried out, vaccination has been added. It is desirable that a higher level of basic protection against smallpox should be maintained and there seems to be a rising appreciation of this fact amongst mothers of young children.

Measles.

Very few cases of measles occurred until almost the end of the fourth quarter.

Acute Encephalitis.

Three cases occurred, one of which was a child of 9 weeks suffering

from acute infective encephalitis. The remaining two cases were children aged 5 and 9 years suffering from post-infectious encephalitis following chickenpox.

Scabies.

Thirty-two cases were treated at the clinic before it was closed at the end of March. During the remaining nine months seven cases were given domiciliary treatment.

Tuberculosis.

There were 78 notifications compared with 61 in 1949, 89 in 1948, and 84 in 1947.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
5	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
10	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	4	11	3	1	-	-	-	-
25	4	10	1	1	-	3	-	-
35	4	6	-	1	2	2	-	-
45	5	4	1	-	1	-	-	-
55	5	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
65 and upwards	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Untraced	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1
	31	35	7	5	9	7	-	2

Compared with last year quite a definite rise has occurred amongst females in the 20-35 age groups, but it is too early to know whether the figures recorded above have any significance. The position will be kept under observation.

On the male side the pulmonary cases continue with a steady scatter over a much wider age range, the reason for this being difficult to place with accuracy.

Investigation into the deaths from tuberculosis amongst very young children has revealed that neither of them was in close contact with open cases of the disease.

Mass Radiography Unit.

I submit below the report of the Mass Radiography Unit which visited the Watford Area between 16th October, 1950 and 9th December, 1950:-

Total number examined	...	...	11,970
Number recalled for large films	...	...	540

Of the above 5,479 were examined in The Small Town Hall and 237 recalled for large films.

Disposal of large film cases:-

a.	No further action	...	...	...	426
b.	To return to unit for further x-ray			...	5
c.	Further investigation required (not necessarily meaning tuberculous conditions)			...	92
d.	Known cases had or having treatment			...	7
e.	Failed to return for large films	...		...	10

The Secretary also comments that as well as a very good attendance at the public sessions the high-light of the visit was the response by school teachers to an invitation to avail themselves of the service. The percentage of teachers responding was by far the best that the unit had ever enjoyed.

It seems very unlikely that as this service has to cover a very wide area, it will be available in Watford annually. The unit is finding it quite impossible to meet all the demands made upon it. Although it recognises itself as one of the most useful methods of prevention of the spread of tuberculosis, the other methods of prevention such as good housing, satisfactory working conditions, etc., must not be lost sight of, nor must the close co-operation which is fundamental between the various sections of the National Health Service Act be allowed to lapse. Every endeavour must be made by all concerned to maintain suitable environmental conditions for the prevention of and protection against this disease and when it occurs sound educational methods are required to protect the remainder of the family from infection.

Venereal Diseases.

New premises at Shrodells Hospital became available at the beginning of the year.

Cancer.

120 deaths took place in 1950 compared with 151 in 1949, 133 in 1948, and 143 in 1947.

Watford Isolation Hospital.

The Medical Superintendent has supplied the following details of admissions and discharges during the year 1950.

Patients in Hospital on January 1st, 1950 (excluding Tuberculosis).

Scarlet Fever	...	5	
Poliomyelitis	...	2	
Other diseases	...	5	
		<u>12</u>	12

Carried forward .. 12

Patients admitted to Hospital during 1950.

Brought forward .. 12

Scarlet Fever	...	75	Chickenpox	...	7	
Diphtheria	...	4	Whooping Cough	...	20	
Cerebrospinal			Poliomyelitis	...	38	
Meningitis	...	7	Paratyphoid Fever		6	
Measles	...	11	Paratyphoid Carrier		1	
Encephalitis	...	1	Other causes	...	57	
Erysipelas	...	2			229	229

Patients treated during 1950 - 241

Patients in Hospital on 31st December, 1950.

Scarlet Fever	...	2	Measles	...	6	
Poliomyelitis	...	2	Other causes	...	2	
Cerebrospinal					13	13
Meningitis	...	1				

The following deaths occurred in Hospital.

Poliomyelitis	...	5	Other diseases	...	2	
					7	7

Patients Discharged from Hospital during 1950.

Scarlet Fever	...	71	Paratyphoid Fever		6	
Cerebrospinal			Paratyphoid Carrier		1	
Meningitis	...	4	Chickenpox	...	8	
Measles	...	6	Poliomyelitis	...	27	
Whooping Cough	...	18	Other causes	...	78	
Erysipelas	...	2				
					221	221
			Total	...		241

57 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted and 45 discharged. 6 deaths occurred.